

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease, an acute bacterial disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, is most commonly manifested as meningitis, but it is also reportable if confirmed in other normally sterile sites. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, and often a petechial rash. Delirium and coma often appear and fulminant cases may exhibit sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock. With early diagnosis and therapy the case fatality rate is between 5% and 15%. Transmission of the organism is from person to person through infected droplets of discharges from the nose and throat, more often from infected carriers than from cases.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

Case Classification

Confirmed: A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: A case with a positive antigen test in CSF or clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture.

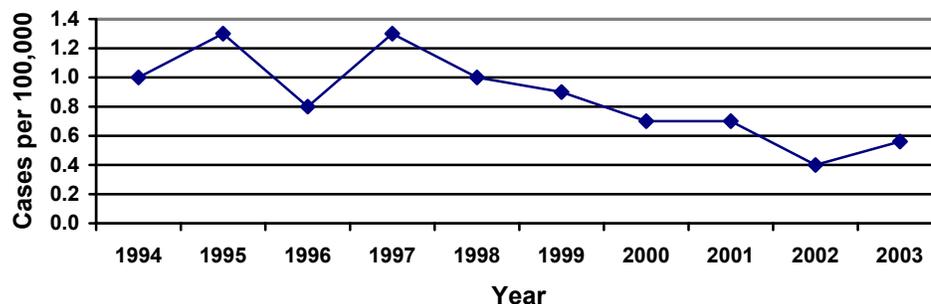
Comment

Positive antigen test results alone from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosing Meningococcal disease.

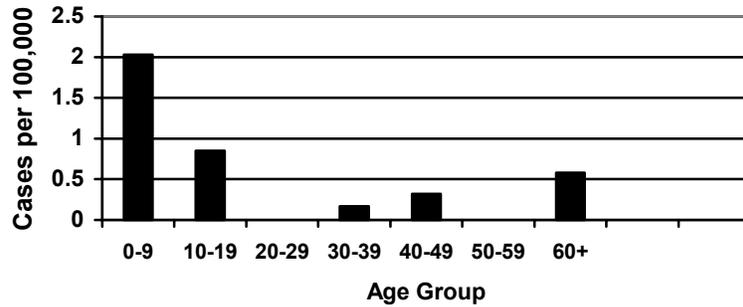
Epidemiology

Kentucky 2003	Rate per 100,000	Cases by Gender	Rate by 100,000
Cases 23	0.56	Female 10	0.48
		Male 13	0.65
U.S. Rate (2002)	0.64		

**Meningococcal Disease Incidence, Kentucky
1994-2003**



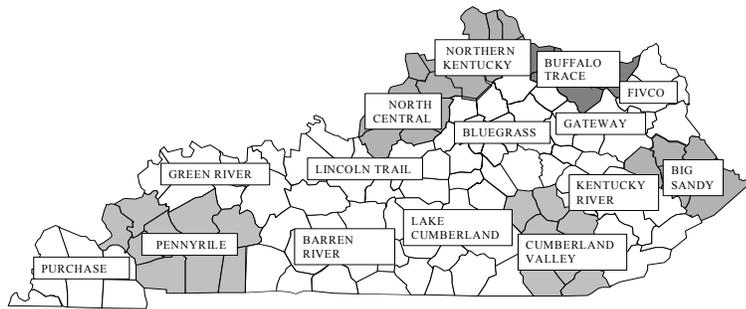
Meningococcal Disease, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 2003



The highest incidence was in the 0-9 year age group, with 2 of the cases 6 months or younger in age.

Meningococcal Disease by District Annual Incidence per 100,000 2003

0.0-0.5	
0.6-1.0	
1.1-2.0	



Area Development Districts	Cases	Rate per 100,000
Pennyrile District	2	0.9
Green River District	1	0.5
Barren River District	1	0.4
North Central District	9	1.0
Northern Kentucky District	3	0.8
Buffalo Trace District	1	1.8
Big Sandy District	1	0.6
Cumberland Valley District	2	0.8
Bluegrass District	3	0.4